

Amendments to the Claims:

Entry of the following amendments to place the claims into condition for allowance is respectfully requested:

1-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) Method for cleaning a screen stencil of a screen printing device, comprising the steps of:

bringing a paper web beneath the screen stencil for an intermediate printing; and

printing on the ~~intermediate printing~~ paper web by a squeegee running over the screen stencil,

wherein before performing the intermediate printing, the bottom of the screen stencil is wetted with a cleaning agent by a rotating cylinder or brush that is immersed in cleaning agent and brought in contact with the bottom of the screen stencil, the rotating cylinder or brush being mounted to be raised or lowered and arranged across a direction of movement of the intermediate printing device,

the rotating cylinder or brush rotates without slippage along the bottom of the screen stencil, and

said paper web is different from a media to be printed on in regular printing on the screen printing device.

20. (canceled)

21. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device for a screen printing machine for cleaning a screen stencil, having a paper web and an intermediate impression cylinder which can be inserted beneath the screen stencil for the purpose of cleaning the screen stencil, wherein a rotating body which is provided for the intermediate printing device and is mounted across a direction of movement of the intermediate printing device, said rotating body being coatable with a cleaning agent and guidable along and in contact with a bottom of the screen stencil before an intermediate printing.

22. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the rotating body is a cylinder which is immersed in a cleaning agent bath.

23. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the cleaning agent is accommodated in a container which surrounds at least a bottom portion of the cylinder and is adapted to the shape of the cylinder.

24. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the cleaning agent is supplied to the container in circulation.

25. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the surface of the cylinder is roughened.

26. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the cylinder is provided with a pinion gear arranged laterally and engaging in a toothed rod which is fixedly arranged on the master frame of the screen printing machine next to the screen stencil.

27. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the rotating body is designed so that it can be raised and lowered.

28. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 21, wherein a control device is provided for determining the cleaning cycle.

29. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the cylinder and the container assigned to it for the cleaning agent are arranged on the end of an intermediate impression cylinder which faces the screen stencil, said cylinder being mounted displaceably in a direction of movement of the squeegee.

30. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 29, wherein the cylinder is mounted with the container on a pivot lever pair.

31. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 26, wherein the pivot lever pair can be acted upon by pneumatic cylinders so that the pinion gear engages in the toothed rod.

32. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the intermediate impression cylinder is provided with a paper web carried by cylinders and arranged so that it can be displaced about the length of the screen stencil.

33. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the paper web is designed as a continuous loop to receive ink and cleaning agent.

34. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 33, wherein the continuous loop material is freed of ink with cleaning agent in circulation and is available again for reprinting when dry.

35. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the cleaning of the continuous loop material is accomplished with cleaning agent that is carried in circulation and using brushes, stripping squeegees and spray nozzles.

36. (withdrawn) Intermediate printing device as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the intermediate printing is performed for cleaning the screen stencil with a plate cylinder rolling beneath the screen, and the intermediate printing for cleaning is performed automatically.

37. (currently amended) Method for cleaning a screen stencil of a screen printing device, comprising the steps of:

wetting a bottom of the screen stencil with a cleaning agent;

bringing a paper web beneath the screen stencil for an intermediate printing while the cleaning agent is present on the bottom of the screen stencil; and

printing on the ~~intermediate-printing~~ paper web by a squeegee running over the screen stencil,

wherein before performing the intermediate printing, the bottom of the screen stencil is wetted with a cleaning agent by a rotating cylinder or brush that is immersed in cleaning agent and brought in contact with the bottom of the screen stencil, the rotating cylinder or brush being mounted to be raised or lowered and arranged across a direction of movement of the intermediate printing device,

the rotating cylinder or brush rotates without slippage along the bottom of the screen stencil, and

said paper web is different from a media to be printed on in regular printing on the screen printing device.